

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02724 031745Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----106046 031757Z /46
O 031744Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6888

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2724

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: DRAFT OF STATE DINNER TOAST

REF: STATE 48297

1. GENERAL OBASANJO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I WANT TO THAANK YOU, GENERAL OBASANJO, FOR THIS EXCELLENT DINNER THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED TOGETHER. I ALSO WANT TO SAY HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE HERE IN NIGERIA....ALTHOUGH IT TOOK ME LONGER TO GET HERE TH*N I HAD EXPECTED. BUT PLEASURE DEFERRED IS PLEASURE ENHANCED.

2. YOU SAID LAST OCTOBER IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE WAS A CLOSE AFFINITY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AS I HAVE COME TO KNOW NIGERIA BETTER, I AM MORE AND MORE STRUCK BY THE TRUTH OF THAT STATEMENT.THE SHARED ANCESTRY OF A LARGE PART OF OUR TWO PEOPLES IS A TIE WHICH IS STRONG AND IMMUTABLE. IT IS A TIE WHICH IS MANIFESTED AT MANY TIMES IN MANY PLACES. RECENTLY IT WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF BLACK AMERICANS IN YOUR REMARKABLE FESTAC CELEBRATIONS EARLY LAST YEAR.

ASIDE FROM A SHARED ANCESTRY WE ALSO SHARE SIMILAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02724 031745Z

HISTORIES.

-- BOTH OUR COUNTRIES KNOW FIRSHAND A COLONIAL EXPERIENCE, IN MANY WAYS A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE, AS WITNESSED BY THE LANGUAGE WE ARE BOTH SPEAKING TONIGHT. BUT THAT EXPERIENCE HAS ALSO CAUSED US TO KNOW FIRSHAND THE PLIGHT OF PEOPLES WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE.

-- WE BOTH KNOW THE INTENSE PAIN OF CIVIL WAR.. AND
THE SATISFACTION OF RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL
REUNIFICATION AFTERWARDS.
-- WE HAVE BOTH HAD TO DEVELOP POLITICAL STRUCTURES
TO DEAL WITH THE SIZE AND DIVERSITIES OF OUR
COUNTRIES.
-- WE HAVE BOTH EXPERIENCED AND ARE EXPERIENCING
THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT....WHICH ARE SO
IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR TWO PEOPLES.
-- FINALLY, AND SPEAKING QUITE FRANKLY, BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES SHARE THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY
WHICH FLOWS FROM THE EXERCISE OF POWER
AND AUTHORITY IN TODAY'S WORLD.

4. I AM DEWELLING ON THESE AFFINITIES BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES...NOT BECAUSE IT IS FASHIONABLE TO DO SO
DURING STATE VISITS...BUT BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THEY
PROVIDE A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE DIALOGUE AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SO
IMPORTANT TODAY. THIS DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION ARE
IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE ARE FACED WITH MUTUAL PROBLEMS
WHICH WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN SOLVING.

-- FOREMOST AMONG THESE IS THE SITUATION IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE BOTH SHARE THE DESIRE TO
BRING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THAT PART
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02724 031745Z

OF THE WORLD SO THAT THE PEOPLE THERE...ALL OF
THE PEOPLE THERE...CAN FULLY PARTICIPATE IN
THE GOVERNING OF THEIR LIVES AND IN ENJOYING
THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY TO WHICH THEY ARE
ENTITLED. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE BOTH WORKING
FOR THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF MAJORITY RULE
IN ZIMBABWE THAT WILL MERIT INTERNATIONAL
ACCEPTANCE. SECONDLY, WE BOTH SUPPORT SELF-
DETERMINATION FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. THIRDLY,
WE ARE BOTH INTERESTED IN FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN
SOUTH AFRICA--CHANGE WHICH WILL ENABLE ALL OF THE
PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY TO SHARE ITS RICH PATRIMONY.
-- SIMILARLY, WE ARE BOTH FACED WITH SITUATIONS
ELSEWHERE ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA IN WHICH
WE SHARE A COMMON DESIRE TO SEE AFRICAN SOLUTIONS
TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS...SO THAT AFRICA CAN BE A
CONTINENT OF PEACE. IN THAT REGARD, I WANT TO
COMPLIMENT GENERAL OBASANJO AND THE NIGERIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR THE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE
MEDIATION ROLE THEY ARE PLAYING IN AFRICA,
PARTICULARLY IN THE HORN.
-- FINALLY, WE SHARE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN DEALING

WITH GLOBAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS ENERGY AND THE
DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE PEACE AND PROGRESS OF ALL
OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD CAN BE ASSURED. AS
TWO COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON THESE
ISSUES, OUR OWN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CAN ENCOURAGE PROGRESS
IN BOTH AREAS.

5. THESE ARE NOT EASY PROBLEMS...AS I'M SURE YOU WOULD AGREE.
AND WE MAY NOT AT ALL TIMES AGREE ON ALL THINGS.

6. BUT MY POINT TONIGHT IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE MANY
AFFINITIES THAT WE SHARE, WE FIND OURSELVES IN A UNIQUE
POSITIONS TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND HONESTLY WITH EACH OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02724 031745Z

IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS.

7. WE HAVE DONE SO IN WASHINGTON LAST OCTOBER AND NOW HERE
IN LAGOS. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

8. AGAIN, MAY I EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO OUR HOST. I
ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN A TOAST TO HIS HEALTH AND TO
STRENGTHENED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS02724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0060
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803110/aaaadppr.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5da424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 48297
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3130534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: DRAFT OF STATE DINNER TOAST
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5da424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014